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shows from what class of decisions appeals and writs of error may be taken. It is unfortunate that the Amendment to the Judiciary Act of December 23, 1914, was passed so soon before the publication of the book that this important change in the cases for which a writ of error will go to the state court could not be noted in the text of the book. Reference is, however, made to the act in "Additions and Corrections".

The book is clear, simple and concise. Detail is sacrificed for brevity, although the problems are discussed with much precision. The book originated in a course of lectures delivered at the University of Maryland and therefore, as the Maryland court is always referred to as the typical state court, the viewpoint of the book is at times not as broad as it might be. On the whole the book is to be recommended for the purpose for which it was written; it is too elementary for those who have difficult problems to solve, but for those who wish a broad and fundamental idea of the subject, it should prove satisfactory.

E. W. M.

A HISTORY OF FRENCH PUBLIC LAW. By Jean Brissaud. Translated by James W. Garner. Pp. lviii and 581. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1915.

The ninth volume of the Continental Legal History Series, published under the auspices of the Association of American Law Schools, contains that portion of the late Professor Brissaud's History of French Law which relates to the public law of France. The volume devoted to private law has already appeared. This volume treats of the state and its administration, local government, the church, finance and status of persons and of lands during the Roman, Barbarian, Feudal, Monarchical and Revolutionary periods respectively; in other words it is a constitutional and institutional history of France from the earliest times to the nineteenth century. Brissaud's work is one of the greatest contributions to legal history; to praise it at this day is a work of supererogation. We can merely congratulate ourselves that at last there is an adequate English translation of a work which no student of legal institutions can disregard. Though the book in form is a history of the law of one nation, the scholarship of the author was too profound to be confined within such limitations; using the comparative method he reaches results as to the fundamental principles of state growth common to all western communities and in his notes while discussing French law throws extraordinary side lights upon every nook and cranny of legal history. We see how societies are formed, developed and finally pass away.

Particularly interesting to the American and English lawyer or historical student should be his study of the feudal system. So far as land law and land titles are concerned English and American jurists have thoroughly mastered feudalism, but it may be doubted whether they have fully appreciated its influence on constitutional ideas and practice. Brissaud's history too, is carried down to the French Revolution, in contrast to the great English histories which do not penetrate beyond the feudal period, and leave practically untouched the modern changes in the land system and local government. And the Revolutionary period is an excellent stopping place, for there it was that administrative centralization in France took its present form.

The brilliant style of the author makes the reading of this work a real pleasure, while the extraordinary wealth of citations should prove of great use to the specialist. Now that we have it, it is difficult to see how either historian or jurist could do without it.

L. H.